Hand-made Paper.—A hand-made paper factory has been working for some time. Since difficulties were experienced in calendering, the Paper Expert was deputed to Bezwada and Mysore for further study and he has now returned and a scheme for the manufacture of half a ton of paper per day has been submitted. The difficulties in calendering will be met by the purchase of a calendering machine and certain other minor implements.

Industrial Museum.—Arrangements have been made to start an Industrial Museum at Trichur. The manufacture of show cases and the collection of certain items of local exhibits have been already finished. Some of the outside Governments have also been addressed for details of their important products.

FISHERIES

On experiments conducted, it has been proved that several species of shark, yielding large quantities of oil of medicinal value, are available in our sea and backwaters. Government have made arrangements for extracting fish-oil and for marketing it.

Attempts are made to increase the catching of fish. Provision has been made in the budget for 1120 to bring 10 fishermen from British Malabar, who are experts in using bigger nets for deep sea fishing, in order to conduct the operations in our waters experimentally and to give training to our fishermen in this direction. A new fish-curing yard is also proposed to be opened in the year 1120 at Kannamali in Kumbalanghi Village.

CO-OPERATION

The Committee appointed to enquire into the working of the Co-operative movement in the State has submitted its report and the same is under consideration of Government. Some of the co-operative societies have played a prominent part in the distribution of seeds, clothes and other necessaries. A few have also run fair price shops successfully.

PANCHAYATS

In my budget speech of year before last, I have made a special reference to an important reform introduced in the Panchayat administration by granting more financial powers to the Panchayats in that it is entirely left to them to prepare their own budgets. I was watching with anxiety the results of this experiment. It is a matter of supreme pleasure for me to inform the House now, that from my experience of the last two years it has been abundantly clear that the reform has been worked out successfully by the Panchayats.

With a view to grant more and more powers to Panchayats, a bill has been introduced in this House, and it is hoped that ere long, with the co-operation of this House, it will come into law.

RURAL LIBRARIES

20 additional rural libraries have been started during the year and provision for 20 more has been made for the coming year, which will raise the number of libraries to 203.

VILLAGE COURTS

The Village Courts Act is now one year old. In addition to the 35 courts which existed last year, 12 more courts have been sanctioned this year, and the opening of all the new courts will be completed before the close of the year. With the opening of these courts, all the villages in the State will be brought under one village court or another. One of the main purposes intended to be achieved by the constitution of village courts was to avoid delay in the disposal of suits. Out of the total number of 2285 suits, including 607 pending in 1118, as many as 1816 have been already disposed of till 31st Medam 1119, leaving a pendency of only 469 suits. It may be stated that the number of suits pending on 31st Medam 1118, soon after the constitution of village courts, was 1947. This will enable the House to have an idea of the progress made and the promptness achieved in the disposal of suits in the village courts. There is also considerable decrease in the number of revision petitions. A conference of village court judges was held in the current year in which representatives from many village courts participated. The conference was useful and successful. Provision has been made for a similar conference next year. An examination of the Agents of the village courts was also held.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Epidemics.—The outbreak of cholera which began towards the end of 1118 continued in the first quarter of 1119 also. Vigorous preventive measures were taken and the attack subsided without much spreading. 36,602 inoculations were conducted. Outbreak of plague also was reported in the outlying villages of Chittur Taluk. Prompt measures were adopted to prevent

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further infection. There were attacks of small-pox in some of the rural parts and towns. Nearly 1,50,000 vaccinations were done in rural parts, 51,000 in Mattancheri and 18,900 in Ernakulam.

Malaria.—On the advice of Dr. Ramsay, the Malarial Expert of the Ross Institute, who visited the State, new measures are being taken to tackle malaria. A Malariologist has been appointed for this purpose.

Child-Welfare Centres.—It is proposed to start 2 child-welfare centres, one at Ollur and the other at Cranganur, next year.

Vital Statistics.—A Statistician is proposed to be appointed to systematise and consolidate the registration of vital statistics.

Midwifery service.—The appointment of ten additional midwives was sanctioned in the current year, but only four could be entertained due to want of qualified hands. Including those appointed in the current year, the total number of midwives in the State comes to 71. The selection of another batch of candidates for midwifery training was also made during the year.

Radio.—Radio sets have been installed in ten Panchayats and the scheme is proposed to be continued next year also, for which a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided.

AYURVEDA

Taluk Hospitals and Vaidyasalas.—With the intention of extending medical aid all over the State through the Ayurvedic system, 5 Taluk Hospitals, with an in-patient ward of 10 beds attached to each, and 7 Vaidyasalas were opened during the course of the year. 3 Grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas were also converted into regular Government Vaidyasalas. It is gratifying to note that the new institutions are growing popular as can be seen from the large number of patients who resort to these institutions.

It is also proposed to start 5 more Vaidyasalas in 1120 in the rural areas. Increased provision has also been made in the next budget for larger supply of medicines to the Ayurvedic institutions and for strengthening the staff in the hospitals.

Sales Department.—The Sales Department is also growing in importance, which enables the public to get genuine medicines at cheaper prices. On an average medicines worth Rs. 4,500 have been sold each month. The transaction has resulted in a small gain to the Government.

DEPRESSED CLASSES

Admission to the Harijan Hostel, Ernakulam, has been raised from 20 to 30 students. Increased provision has been made in the Budget for 1120, with a view to raise the number of collegiate admission to depressed class pupils from 20 to 30. The question of giving financial assistance to depressed class candidates for pursuing higher studies outside the State is also under consideration.

LAND MORTGAGE BANK

The rate of interest on loans disbursed from the Land Mortgage Bank has been reduced from 6 to 5 per cent. The Bank has also been allowed to float debentures at 3 per cent, guaranteed by Government.

Till the end of Mithunam, during the current year, the Bank has received 150 loan applications and disbursed loans to the extent of Rs. 1,19,828.

CONCLUSION

I hope I have covered all the broad aspects of administration relating to my port-folio. Before I conclude, let me express my heart-felt gratitude to the members of this House for the kindness and co-operation they have extended to me in the administration of the Transferred Subjects. I have often profitted by the criticisms which this House had occasion to offer. It is my genuine hope that this House, which has never failed to strengthen my hands when-ever necessary, will continue to extend its valuable co-operation to my endeavours in an increasing measure and to guide me by helpful correction so that I may discharge my duties to the maximum advantage of the general public. I am also equally grateful to the Diwan for the genuine spirit of good-will and co-operation I have always received at his hands.

The trend of recent events in the theatres of war indicate that the day of Victory is not far off. Let us hope and pray that before the next Budget Session the world will find a new era of Peace and Prosperity.

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